

Xena #6 VISIONARY Part 01
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NOTE TO ARTIST: I know the ethnicities of certain characters are set in stone, but, if possible, could you please mix it up with the new characters, this way we don't have such a Caucasian cast? Thank you.

PAGE 01

We're going to be inside a small/poor home in Ancient Greece. These first two images have the feel of what I was thinking, but feel free to find reference you prefer.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/259097784787205972>

Nazar and her family are dressed as modest people. They're not hand to mouth peasants, but they are a lower class. Nazar speaks in two different typefaces, almost as if she's possessed by a demon. When Nazar has her visions, her eyes are cloudy.

Nazar's mother is a laundress, and her father is a falconer. She's hired by rich people to clean their clothes, and he's hired by rich people to go out and hunt (like those hired to lead fox hunts). So in the home will be a perch (without the falcon) and thick leather gauntlets/falconer gloves.

PANEL 01

Open on a large panel of Nazar, a 15-year-old girl, thrashing about in her modest, wooden bed. Think Regan's seizure in The Exorcist. She's babbling incoherently.

TITLE: Zemenos Arachovas, Ancient Greece.

NAZAR: They see you! They know the depths of your soul, Liar!

PANEL 02

Cut to a wide angle shot of Nazar's mother, Aspasia. She's crying, standing helplessly away from her daughter. She's holding a ragdoll in her hand.

NAZAR: NO!

NAZAR: Make. It. Stop!

ASPASIA (SOTTO): Please, Nazar...

PANEL 03

Cut to a CU of the ragdoll in Aspasia's hands. She's nearly choking the doll from stress. It's worn, something a young child would have, not a 15-year-old girl.

ASPASIA (SOTTO/FROM OFF): Baby, please stop this.

PAGE 02

Here we'll see more of the interior of the home, as Nazar's father, Geraki, brings in a Healer. The Healer is dressed much more posh than Nazar's family, and he has a small pouch with him on his belt that holds a small bottle of elixir.

PANEL 01

Cut to the front door. Geraki and the Healer come in.

GERAKI: Aspasia?

ASPASIA (FROM OFF): Geraki! Come quickly!

PANEL 02

Cut to Nazar's room. Nazar is still flailing, but Aspasia stands closer to her bed, still clutching the ragdoll.

ASPASIA: It's the worst fit I've ever seen.

PANEL 03

The Healer approaches Nazar. He has one hand out, as if someone would approach a scared animal. Geraki holds Aspasia back.

HEALER: It's all right, child.

ASPASIA: No! You can't touch her in this state.

PANEL 04

Geraki hands the Healer a pair of thick, leather gloves.

GERAKI: Here, use these.

PANEL 05

The healer, with his hands gloved, touches Nazar's arm.

HEALER: Be still, child...

HEALER (SOTTO): Be still...

PANEL 06

Nazar stops flailing. She is calm in bed. The healer strokes her forehead.

HEALER (SOTTO): That's right...

HEALER (SOTTO): You're all right, Nazar.

PAGE 03

We stay in Nazar's room for this sequence. We will see one of Nazar's visions that will show the front of the home and have the trio of the Healer, Aspasia, and Geraki. However you want to separate the visions from the "regular" story is up to you. The vision panels can have organic edges to set them apart, or just be colored differently. But both Nazar and the Oracle will be having visions throughout the story.

PANEL 01

Cut to a three shot of the Healer, Aspasia, and Geraki standing over Nazar's bed. Nazar is passed out. Aspasia still holds the ragdoll. The Healer is removing the falconer's gloves.

HEALER: How often does she have these fits?

GERAKI: It used to only be every few months, but now...

GERAKI: She's like this every week, it seems.

ASPASIA: She hasn't been this bad since...

PANEL 02

Cut to Aspasia stroking the doll.

ASPASIA: ...Since her sister died.

PANEL 03

Aspasia bends down to place the doll on Nazar's sleeping body.

PANEL 04

Nazar grabs Aspasia's bare wrist.

ASPASIA: Wha--?

PANEL 05

Cut to Nazar's vision. The Healer, Aspasia, and Geraki stand outside in front of the home. Nazar is present in this vision, as a ghostly figure who cannot be seen or heard by them. The Healer hands Geraki a small bottle. He is sympathetic to Geraki and Aspasia. Aspasia is crying. Nazar is frantic.

NAZAR: No...what are you giving them? Stop!

PANEL 06

Cut to the present. Nazar's eyes are open and cloudy. She still holds Aspasia's wrist. Aspasia is terrified.

NAZAR: You will betray me.

PANEL 07

Nazar passes out again.

PAGE 04

We will be both outside and inside the home in this sequence.

PANEL 01

Cut to what Nazar saw in her vision, but it's in real time now: A three shot of the Healer, Aspasia, and Geraki standing in front of their home. The Healer is calm. Geraki is uneasy, jumpy, even.

HEALER: I'm afraid your daughter is very ill. And, from what you've told me, these fits will likely get worse.

GERAKI: She's possessed, isn't she? Some demon got to her.

HEALER: That's a question for a mystic.

PANEL 02

Two shot of Geraki and Aspasia. Aspasia looks unsure, almost as if she doesn't believe the words coming out of her own mouth. Geraki is emphatic.

GERAKI: She predicted her sister's death, did you know that? How do we know she wasn't the cause? How do we know this demon didn't make her kill Jacoba?

ASPASIA: Geraki, please! She didn't hurt her sister. She couldn't have.

PANEL 03

The Healer hands Geraki the small bottle.

HEALER: When the fits come again, give her three drops of this. It will calm her. Then send for me.

PANEL 04

We see the Healer leaving through POV of Nazar who is awake in the house.

PANEL 05

Cut to a reverse shot of Nazar watching from the house.

PAGE 05

This will be at night in the home. Nazar's mother and father are speaking in bed while Nazar decides she will run away from home.

PANEL 01

Cut to Aspasia and Geraki in bed speaking.

TITLE: Later.

ASPASIA (SOTTO): Do you really think Nazar is possessed?

GERAKI (SOTTO): What else would explain it? Her fits, the "visions" she says she has...Only a demon would cause such pain.

PANEL 02

MCU of Aspasia. She's distraught.

ASPASIA (SOTTO): Maybe the Gods punish us for Jacoba's death.

ASPASIA (SOTTO): Could Nazar be marked by furies?

PANEL 03

Geraki turns to Aspasia in bed.

GERAKI (SOTTO): I don't know. But we shall go to Delphi and seek out the Oracle. They will have the answer.

GERAKI (SOTTO): And if she is marked by a fury or any other demon...

PANEL 04

Cut to Nazar listening in outside her parents' bedroom.

GERAKI (SOTTO/FROM OFF): ...Then she should be spared the agony before she infects others.

PANEL 05

Cut to Nazar at the front door of the home. It's open, and the night sky can be seen. It's the beginning of Nazar's adventure. She's deeply hurt by what her parents are saying. What she's doing is a matter of survival. She has a small bag over her shoulder. She drops the ragdoll. It's in the midst of falling.

NAZAR (INTERNAL MONOLOGUE): They truly believe I would harm my own sister

NAZAR (INTERNAL MONOLOGUE): They've never understood me.

NAZAR (INTERNAL MONOLOGUE): I must learn to control it, to conquer it. Then, perhaps, they will love me as they did Jacoba.

NAZAR (INTERNAL MONOLOGUE): You're right, about one thing, father...

PANEL 06

The door to the home is closed and the ragdoll is on the floor.

NAZAR (INTERNAL MONOLOGUE): ...The Oracle will know what to do.

PAGES 06 – 07 DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD

We introduce our heroes in a fantastic chase sequence! Xena and Gabrielle try to right a wrong! Horses, wagons, dust kicking up as the hooves pound the road. These bandits have stolen the wagon of a “tour guide” of Delphi who helps “the faithful” see The Oracle...for a fee, of course.

PANEL 01

Cut to Xena and Gabrielle on Xena’s horse, chasing a horse and wagon on a wide road in the woods. There’s a good distance between the wagon and Xena’s horse. There’s a man in his mid 40s driving the wagon and a man in his early 20s on the back of the wagon. The wagon is filled with small chests and trunks.

TITLE: Delphi.

TITLE: Three days later.

PANEL 02

The young man throws a small, wooden chest off the back of the wagon to the dismay of the driver.

DRIVER: What’re ya doin’?

YOUNG MAN: Lightening the load!

PANEL 03

Cut to the chest falling next to Xena and Gabrielle’s horse, who dodges it deftly.

PANEL 04

CU of the chest shows a side is broken and coins spill out from the fracture.

PANEL 05

Cut to Gabrielle yelling at Xena as they bounce on the back of Xena’s horse. Xena looks annoyed.

GABRIELLE: Can’t you get any closer to them?

XENA: XENA: Perhaps if you stopped gorging yourself on pasteli, we would carry less weight.

PANEL 06

Xena, still holding the reins of her horse with one hand, stands on the horse as it still runs. Gabrielle is amazed at Xena’s balance.

XENA: But if you want to get closer...

PANEL 07

Cut to Gabrielle shocked as Xena’s hand is in frame, lifting Gabrielle off her ass.

GABRIELLE: No, wait...

PAGE 08 SPLASH PAGE

Xena throws Gabrielle like a fastball special.

XENA: ...Let me help you!

GABRIELLE: WOAHH!

PAGE 09 PANEL 01

Gabrielle somersaults mid air.

GABRIELLE (SOTTO/TO HERSELF): Time to show my skills!

PAGE 09 PANEL 02

Gabrielle lands on the back of the wagon, right at the edge.

PAGE 09 PANEL 03

Cut to a CU of her heels dangling off the back. She's on her toes.

GABRIELLE: Eek!

PAGE 09 PANEL 04

Gabrielle grabs a hold of the young man at the back of the wagon. He's surprised that she's grabbed onto him.

YOUNG MAN: Huh?

PAGE 09 PANEL 05

CU Two shot of Gabrielle and the Young Man. Gabrielle blushes. She's still holding onto him in an embrace. The Young Man flirts.

BAD GUY: Uh...hey, there.

PAGE 10 PANEL 01

Xena rides her horse, now lighter without Gabrielle, up alongside the wagon.

PAGE 10 PANEL 02

The Wagon Driver whips the horse to run faster as Xena is nearly head to head with him.

DRIVER: Yah!

PAGE 10 PANEL 03

As she's neck and neck with the wagon, Xena throws her chakram.

PAGE 10 PANEL 04

The driver ducks as the chakram goes flying by him.

DRIVE: Ha! You missed!

PAGE 10 PANEL 05

Cut to Gabrielle and the Young Man. They're no longer embraced, but they're still flirting. Xena's chakram knocks the man in the back.

SFX: THUNK

PAGE 10 PANEL 06

The Young Man turns back toward Xena angrily.

GUY: Hey!

PAGE 11 PANEL 01

Xena jumps onto the front of the wagon.

XENA: Ayiyiiyiyiyi!

PAGE 11 PANEL 02

Xena kicks the driver off the wagon.

PAGE 11 PANEL 03

Cut to Gabrielle talking to the Young Man at the back of the wagon. She's sympathetic.

GABRIELLE: I'm really sorry about this.

GUY: What?

PAGE 11 PANEL 04

Gabrielle gut punches him.

SFX: WHUD

PAGE 11 PANEL 05

Gabrielle tosses him off the wagon.

PAGE 11 PANEL 06

Xena has taken the reins and pulls, slowing the horse pulling the wagon.

XENA: WOAHH!

PAGE 12 PANEL 01

Cut to Xena and Gabrielle slowing the wagon back into the center of Delphi. Niko, a well-dressed older man greets the two ladies. He's standing near a long line of people going up the stairs to the Oracle. Perhaps they're snaked around the columns. Nazar's parents are in the line, her mother still has the rag doll.

<https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/olympians/images/6/66/Largeoracledelphi.jpg/revision/latest?cb=20170520043257>

Niko is happy his wagon has been returned to him. Gabrielle has her arms crossed, looking obstinate. Both Xena and Gabrielle are unimpressed with the man.

NIKO: Oh, thank you! I knew those bandits wouldn't get far with the warlord--er, warrior--Xena, chasing them.

GABRIELLE: {ahem}

NIKO: And...you...other girl.

PAGE 12 PANEL 02

Cut to a wide angle shot Xena has dismounted the wagon and talks to Niko. Gabrielle is getting down from the wagon. Niko looks proud of himself.

NIKO: It's amazing how no one wants to do an honest day's work anymore.

XENA: And what is your honest day's work?

NIKO: I'm an official guide to the Oracle at Delphi.

PAGE 12 PANEL 03

Two shot of Gabrielle and Xena. They look at each other with a skeptical look.

PAGE 12 PANEL 04

Same framing. Xena and Gabrielle look at Niko. Gabrielle makes air quotes.

GABRIELLE: An "official" guide, huh? So you "officially" take these people's money, do you?

PAGE 12 PANEL 05

Cut to an MCU of NIKO. He's obviously offended.

NIKO: Look...Xena's friend...I provide an authentic experience and guarantee direct contact with the Oracle. Those other "guides" can't do that. They just show you the building and point.

NIKO: When you book with me, you get to ask a question of the Oracle.

PAGE 12 PANEL 06

Niko shoos Xena and Gabrielle away. Both Gabrielle and Xena hold a coin in their hands, their backs already to Niko.

NIKO: Now take this and get yourselves some nice trinkets. Off you go.

GABRIELLE (SOTTO): Oooh! One whole question to ask the Oracle. Do you believe this guy?

XENA (SOTTO): Try not to spend that all on pasteli.

PAGE 13 PANEL 01

Cut to Nazar walking through the crowd in town. She holds her head with one hand and reaches out with another. She's stumbling and mumbling. She's scared and keeps hearing the voices of everyone around her. This is her Jean Grey/Rogue psychic freak out moment.

VOICE 1: He said he loved me!

VOICE 2: What will I tell Esme?

VOICE 3: No one will know...

NAZAR: Must...see...the Oracle...

PAGE 13 PANEL 02

Nazar bumps into a woman in the crowd. Their skin touches.

PAGE 13 PANEL 03

Cut to a vision of the woman in the crowd stealing a piece of fruit from a vendor. Nazar's ghostly image watches her.

PAGE 13 PANEL 04

Nazar bumps into a burly young man.

YOUNG MAN: Hey.

PAGE 13 PANEL 05

Cut to a vision of the young man shouting at his wife abusively. Nazar's ghostly image looks on in horror.

PAGE 13 PANEL 06

Nazar starts to run through the crowd, both hands on her head, trying to drown out all the voices she hears.

NAZAR: {gnnf} Please...stop...talking!

PAGE 14 PANEL 01

Nazar runs into Xena. Xena is surprised. Xena being as strong as she is, it's like Nazar hits a wall.

NAZAR: Oof!

XENA: Watch where--

PAGE 14 PANEL 02

Two shot. Nazar touches Xena's face. Xena is confused by this, but doesn't fear the young woman.

PAGE 14 PANELS 03 - 04

Nazar sees visions of Xena from her violent past. It could be from Meredith's run, or new images of Xena being particularly savage, like the burning of Calisto's village. Nazar's ghostly image watches Xena's actions. Nazar is frightened and horrified by the savagery.

NAZAR (CAPTION OVER VISIONS): "So...Much...Pain."

PAGE 14 PANEL 05

Large panel. Nazar passes out in Xena's arms like the Jim Aparo cover of Jason Todd and Bruce Wayne. <http://fandom.wikia.com/articles/many-deaths-robin>

PAGE 14 PANEL 06

Small panel. Gabrielle shrugs behind Xena.

GABRIELLE: Bad Oracle reading?

PAGE 15 PANEL 01

Cut to Nazar's parents in line waiting for the Oracle. They're nervous. Nazar's mother clutches at the ragdoll. The entrance to the Oracle is dark inside, keeping with the mystery.

ASPASIA: I wonder what they'll say.

GERAKI: They'll have the answer...they always do.

PAGE 15 PANEL 02

Niko emerges from the Oracle's entrance with his hand out.

NIKO: The Oracle will see you now.

NIKO: {ahem}

PAGE 15 PANEL 03

Three shot of Aspasia, Niko, and Geraki. Geraki places a few coins in Niko's open hand.

GUIDE: This is it?

GERAKI: We spent nearly all we had on the healer for Nazar.

MOTHER: Please...we just need the Oracle's help.

PAGE 15 PANEL 04

MCU of Niko rolling his eyes. Everyone has a sob story.

NIKO: Fine...

NIKO (SOTTO/TO HIMSELF): It's not like I'm trying to run a business or anything.

PAGE 15 PANEL 05

Aspasia and Geraki follow Niko into the darkness of the Oracle's chamber.

NIKO: Remember, only speak when spoken to.

PAGE 16

The interior of the oracle chamber could look like this, but there is a sheet up, so you don't actually see the Oracle, just the silhouette.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Oracle_of_Delphi_Entranced.jpg

So you know, the Oracle is a man and a woman who are conjoined twins, to mirror Apollo (to whom the Oracle prays) and his twin sister, Artemis. I was thinking of the characters Sarah Paulson played in American Horror Story: Freak Show.

https://cdn1.thr.com/sites/default/files/imagecache/scale_crop_768_433/2014/10/ahsfs_sarah_art.jpg

Because the Oracle has two heads, both that speak, we can sort of see both heads in the silhouette, but it could also look like a shadow. It won't be revealed until the last page the true horror of the Oracle. The Oracle is a celebrity and needs protection. There is a guard standing at each side of the sheet. For the guards, they could look like this with or without the helmets:

<https://ancientgreeceinformation.wordpress.com/ancient-greek-military/>

There are torches lighting the inside of the Oracle's chamber, and the Oracle twins should look Mediterranean: olive skin, dark hair, and dark eyes.

PANEL 01

Geraki and Aspasia stand in front of the sheet. They look somewhat frightened. One of the guards addresses them.

GUARD: Ask your question of the Oracle.

PAGE 16 PANEL 02

Two shot of Geraki and Aspasia. They bow their heads in reverence.

ASPASIA: Oh, great Oracle, we humbly ask your help in finding our daughter, Nazar. Can you see her? Will she return to us?

GERAKI: We believe she is possessed by a demon. Has she infected others with her wickedness?

PAGE 16 PANEL 03

The guard gets feisty, but you see the silhouette of the Oracle hold up a hand as if to say, "wait."

GUARD: You paid for one question.

ORACLE: It is all right.

ORACLE: Come...Give us the trinket you have brought.

PAGE 16 PANEL 04

Aspasia hands the ragdoll over to the Guard.

ASPASIA: Here. It was her sister's. Nazar carries it with her always.

PAGE 16 PANEL 05

ECU of gnarled, old hands touching the doll.

ORACLE: Yes...

PAGE 17 PANEL 01

Cut to the Oracle's vision. Nazar stands on a stump and speaks. Crowds come to visit her and listen intently. She is a Jesus figure, one who can unseat the Oracle as the soothsayer of the land.

NAZAR: I speak the truth to you!

PAGE 17 PANEL 02

The ancient hands of the Oracle drops the doll.

ORACLE: Hissssss!

ASPASIA (FROM OFF): What is it? Is our Nazar hurt?

PAGE 17 PANEL 03

Cut to a wide angle shot of the Oracle's chamber. Aspasia has her head in her hands. Geraki has his arm around Aspasia, consoling her. They listen to the Oracle's message.

ORACLE: Your healer was correct. Your daughter is cursed. She is seeking out the souls of those who she can turn to evil.

ASPASIA: No! It can't be true!

ORACLE: But worry not. Go to the temple of Asclepius.

GERAKI: That's four day's walk here.

ASPASIA: Will that save her?

PAGE 17 PANEL 04

The guard intervenes to shoo Aspasia and Geraki out.

GUARD: No more questions.

ORACLE: If you have favor with the Gods, your prayers will be answered.

ORACLE: The demon will leave Nazar...

ORACLE (SOTTO): One way or another.

PAGE 17 PANEL 05

One guard leads Aspasia and Geraki out. The other leans in toward the sheet to hear the Oracle speak.

ORACLE (SOTTO): (indiscernible whisper)

GUARD 2 (SOTTO): Yes, Oracle.

PAGE 18 PANEL 01

Cut to the steps. Guard 2 stands behind Niko who is in front of the line to see the Oracle. The guard tells the crowd to go home. Niko is outraged, as are the patrons who have waited all day.

GUARD 02: The Oracle won't be seeing anyone else today. Come back tomorrow!

PAGE 18 PANEL 02

Two shot. Niko challenges the guard, trying to weasel others in. The guard doesn't budge.

NIKO: You can't do that. Look at this crowd I've brought them. Do you know how much money that is?

GUARD 02: I obey the word of the Oracle.

NIKO: But what about my customers?

GUARD 02: They're your problem. Now, go!

PAGE 18 PANEL 03

The guard goes back into the Oracle's chamber while Niko tries to calm down those who were waiting in line.

NIKO: Okay, folks, it seems the Oracle will need some rest, so we have to come back tomorrow.

PAGE 18 PANEL 04

Cut to the angry crowd of "faithful."

PERSON 01: This is horse dung!

PERSON 02: You guaranteed we'd see the Oracle.

PERSON 03: I want a refund!

PAGE 18 PANEL 05

As the crowd starts to close in on Niko, engulfing him.

GUIDE: No refunds! Come back tomorrow! Ack!

PAGE 19 PANEL 01

Cut to the Oracle's chamber. The Oracle is still behind the sheet, only a silhouette is visible. Both guards stand at the ready.

PAGE 19 PANEL 02

Same framing. The guards now face the Oracle and bow.

ORACLE: Leave us.

GUARD: Yes, Oracle.

PAGE 19 PANEL 03

The Oracle picks up the ragdoll from the ground.

PAGE 19 PANEL 04

Cut to a vision the Oracle has. Xena and Gabrielle are speaking to each other while Nazar sleeps on a blanket. They have set up camp in the woods outside of the city. There is a fire going.

ORACLE (CAPTION/OVER VISION): "There you are...and you seem to have found yourself a protector already."

PAGE 19 PANEL 05

Cut to the ragdoll being choked in the Oracle's hands.

ORACLE: The Warlord Xena does not scare the Oracle.

ORACLE: You will not threaten our livelihood.

ORACLE: You will not take our faithful from us.

PAGE 20 PANEL 01

Splash panel. Reveal it's the Oracle (a man and a woman) and they're Siamese twins like American Horror Story: Freak Show. The ragdoll is still in the Oracle's hands.

ORACLE WOMAN: She must not be...

ORACLE MAN: ...Allowed to live.

PAGE 20 PANEL 02

Cut to a CU of the ragdoll.

ORACLE (FROM OFF): And we have just the assassin to carry that out.